“Starting in May 2020 the U.S. was shaken by protests, uprisings, and riots following the police murder of George Floyd. Almost immediately the government moved in to repress those taking the streets against the police and racial violence. More than 350 people were arrested on federal charges while city and state level arrests topped 14,000 between May 28th and Nov 3rd. Some cities and regions already had established organizations and crews to help with both jail support and long-term prisoner support during and after the Uprising; in other places new groups formed as the need arose; yet other places still have little or no infrastructure to support the massive number of arrestees.

uprisingsupport.org

The uprising was the continuation of a battle against the combined powers of the state and white supremacy that has been raging for decades; centuries. That fight does not end when the protests die down or the riots are quelled. It overlaps with other moments of rupture and with the care that we show for each other in the aftermath of repression and the build up towards the next moment. The struggle continues. And for that reason, we do not want those captured by the state to be isolated through their imprisonment and left out of that continuing struggle. We want to facilitate their connections with people, movements, and communities on the outside; this website is one piece of that effort.”

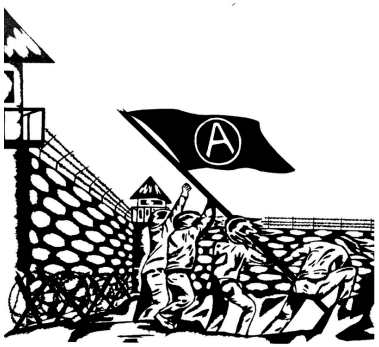
SUPPORT DEFENDANTS & PRISONERS

FROM THE GEORGE FLOYD UPRISINGS

Cover image: no Bonzo
www.nobonzo.com/work/illustration

uprisingsupport.org

updated monthly (god-willing)
wvap@riseup.net



Further Resources

Organizations Doing Support Work for Uprising Prisoners

Minnesota Uprising Arrestee Support
- mnuprising.wordpress.com/
- www.facebook.com/MNuprising
- www.instagram.com/mnuprising/

Puget Sound Prisoner Support
- twitter.com/PugetSupport

Tucson Anti Repression Crew
- www.instagram.com/tucsonantirepression/
- twitter.com/TucsonARC

Atlanta Solidarity Fund
- atlsolidarity.org/
- www.facebook.com/atlsolidarityfund

Michigan Solidarity Bail Fund
- michigansolidaritybailfund.com

Anti Repression PDX
- antirepressionpdx.com/

Anarchist Black Cross Federation
Final Straw Radio
Its Going Down: In Contempt
Certain Days Calendar
True Leap Press
Dreaming Freedom, Practicing Abolition
Mongoose Distro
In the Belly Zine

- A lot of people seem wary of telling prisoners about "fun" stuff, thinking it will depress them or make them feel homesick hearing about people having a laugh on the outside. This is rubbish! They'll already be homesick and it's just reassuring to hear normal life is going on so don't feel coy about mentioning shows, parties and raucous nights down the boozer.
- Always ask a few questions like how they're doing, plans they have for the future, what their interests are, etc. but try to keep it general and don't make it sound like you're being nosey. Bearing in mind that they might be replying to a total stranger, it makes writing a response a lot easier.
- Similarly, some background about yourself, even seemingly trivial things like favorite bands, football teams etc, can make writing a reply that bit easier...
- Don't EVER promise things you can't deliver. If you build someone's hopes up about say visiting them, sending things into them, etc then you let them down, that's well out of order and hardly consistent with supporting them.
- Avoid turgid lefty-isms! Phrases like "my comrades and I have resolved to pass a motion of solidarity" sound pompous and impersonal however well-meaning they might be. "We hope you're doing ok" is a lot more friendly!
- Political literature – be careful! Unless the prisoner asks for it, avoid sending any overly contentious political material in as it can potentially cause them grief. There's no problem sending this kind of thing as long as you ask the prisoner first and always respect their wishes.
- Introduce yourself - tell them your name, location, how you found out about them, and, if it's relevant, what group you're affiliated with.
- Be upfront about how often you'll be able to write. It's fine if you're only intending to send a single letter of support, just be clear so you don't set up an expectation of writing regularly if you can't realistically commit to that.

Angel Espinosa-Villegas

"My name is Angel Espinosa Villegas. I'm a trans butch immigrant, life-long organizer who has lived in the US since I was 7 years old. I am currently locked up in Carswell Federal Medical Facility in Ft. Worth, Texas after pleading guilty to a politically overcharged case. I am facing deportation charges after my 18-month bid here in Carswell. I am in dire need of criminal immigration representation so that I may stay home, here, in Chicago with my lesbian partner and co-defendant, Rene. Otherwise, once deported, I will never be allowed to return. No return to my partner, no return to my dog Aukan, to my sister, to my family and closely-knitted community here in the US. The conditions I'm under here in Carswell are too awful to mention, so it goes without mentioning that I only have you, my community reading this right now, as my only chance of beating this deportation case. I just want to return home, continue fighting for the liberation of our communities, and be able to marry my fiance Rene, while returning to my family l've fought tooth and nail my entire life to have. I have an incredible group of people fighting for us, but we need you. I need you. Please consider sharing my story, reaching out, donating, or whatever is in your capacity. I just want to stay home – I don't want my family separated any further than it's already been torn to shreds by the feds. Don't let them tear us apart. I just want to go home, not be deported to a country where I may die simply because of who I am or my butchness, for what I look like. Thank you for reading this." Venmo: Loba-Cabrona. Cashapp: $PunkWolfe2. Instagram @ freealldykes.

Address letter to Angel, address envelope to Aline A Espinosa-Villegas.

Aline A Espinosa-Villegas 22814-509
FMC Carswell
Federal Medical Center
P.O. Box 27137
Fort Worth, TX 76127

Projected release date: 4/1/2025

Alvin Joseph

Alvin Joseph was held without bond since June of 2020, facing arson charges related to fires targeting police officers' vehicles in Gwinnett County. He was found guilty of attempted arson and was sentenced on March 8th, 2022.

Alvin's birthday is February 9th.

Alvin Joseph 1002016959
Hays State Prison
PO Box 668
Trion, GA 30753

Projected release date: 06/02/2025

What to Write

It's normal to feel intimidated or anxious about writing to a prisoner for the first time. People express this to us all the time, and we understand - you've never met the person before, you don't know what to say, you're not sure what things are okay and not okay to talk about... and cops might read your letter.

Just keep in mind that prisoners are regular people like us, and everyone is different. We can't tell you exactly what to write. We can only encourage you to be yourself so that diverse and genuine connections can be built. We can offer some general tips to help you get past any initial writer's block, though:

- Share some updates on what's going on in the outside world, especially things that are significant to you. Don't be afraid to give lots of details - letters are one of few links to the outside world that many prisoners have, so words and stories that can evoke vivid sounds, smells, tastes, images, and feelings can be very impactful.

- If you're not great with words, share a poem or some lyrics that you like. Or draw something! Or, if the rules permit, add articles or photographs; you can write in some commentary to personalize them.

- If the prisoner is in for a political offense you should obviously let them know you support their actions but don't start praising them as some sort of hero to the cause. Rhetoric to the effect of "I'm in awe of your great sacrifice blah, blah..." is frankly cringe-worthy. If someone is caught up for a political action they probably don't want to be seen as martyrs – they're just normal people unlucky enough to get caught, so write to them like normal people rather than fawning!

- Ask questions like you would with anyone else you were getting to know. What's their favorite food or movie? What are their interests?

Tyre Means

In March of 2021 Tyre Means plead guilty to one count of arson and one count of possession of a stolen firearm. His charges stemmed from the May 30th, 2020 protests in downtown Seattle. At his sentencing Tyre was given a 5 year federal sentence. At his sentencing hearing, Tyre told the judge “the days of just rolling over to police brutality are over.” He likes to read and write, make poetry and rhymes and he says “this time that I am away from my family friends and loved ones is only making me stronger as a man. I have no regrets.”

Tyre Means 49981-086
USP Victorville
US Penitentiary
P.O. Box 3900
Adelanto, CA 92301

Projected release date: 07/24/2025

Christopher Tindal

Christopher was originally arrested in May of 2020 in connection with an arson of a police car during a protest in Rochester, NY. Eventually Christopher was able to plead to a Riot charge, which carried a lesser sentence of 5 years.

Christopher is 30 years old and was born and raised in Rochester, NY. He is a father and hopes to return to school after he is released. In his own words…”What led up to me protesting George Floyd’s murder in 2020 was that all my life I’ve had run-ins with the police. I know what it’s like to be pinned under legs and knees, yelling ‘I can’t breathe’ while foolish cops go ‘stop yelling, then you’ll be able to breathe’.

Christopher Tindal 04392-509
FCI Cumberland
PO Box 1000
Cumberland, MD 21501

Projected release date: 12/28/2027

David Elmakayes

Read David's piece "This Land" posted by Mongoose Distro.

https://mongoosedistro.com/2021/07/02/this-land-by-david-elmakayes/

In February of 2022, David pleaded to arson and felony possession of a firearm; on June 14th, 2022 he was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison and 3 years of supervised release.

David Elmakayes 77782-066
FCI McKean
Federal Correctional Institution
PO Box 8000
Bradford, PA 16701

Projected release date 07/29/2033

Mujera Benjamin Lunga'ho

Mujera Benjamin Lunga'ho received a five and a half year sentence after pleading guilty to arson in August, 2023, and has been incarcerated since September 2021.

Read more about state repression of the uprising in Arkansas and these cases: How to Crush a Movement for Racial Justice and Little Rock police vehicle arson cases end with federal sentencing of four defendants.

www.thenation.com/article/society/movement-racial-justice-police-arkansas/tnamp/
arktimes.com/arkansas-blog/2023/12/12/little-rock-police-vehicle-arson-cases-end-with-federal-sentencing-of-four-defendants

Mujera Benjamin Lunga'ho, Renea Goddard, Cody Nowlin and Angel Espinosa-Villegas were all sentenced to time in federal prison related to the torching of Little Rock, AK police vehicles during the 2020 uprisings.

Mujera Benjamin Lunga'ho 08572-509
FCI Forrest City Medium
Federal Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 3000
Forrest City, AR 723364

Projected release date: 04/14/2026

Montez Lee

On January 14th, 2022, Montez Lee was sentenced to 10 years in prison, having pled guilty to one count of arson after facing multiple federal charges and being held without bond after his arrest. From Minnesota Uprising Arrestee Support: "My name is Montez Lee. I am a 25 year old African American male from Rochester, MN. I am father to two kids. I am being charged by the federal government on the charges of 1st degree arson. On May 28th, I decided to go to Minneapolis and protest with my community. I have faced injustices from local police departments myself and have been subjected to racism. I wanted to be a part of something bigger. I wanted to show my kids and peers that you fight for what you believe in. I'm sick of seeing people of color murdered by the same people sworn to serve and protect. I'm tired of people turning a blind eye to what's going on in this country. Though I've been here for months fighting this case, I will not let it break my spirit or make me forget my principles. I stand with my community and my people. Until there is change and we are treated as equals, we will fight. No justice means no peace."

Montez Lee 22429-041
FCI Ray Brook
Federal Correctional Institution
PO Box 900
Ray Brook, NY 12977

Projected release date: 01/17/2029

Khalif Miller

Khalif has been in prison since October 25, 2020, when he was arrested for participating in racial justice protests in Philadelphia. He is one of the five people indicted along Ant Smith, and you can find posts about local support for Khalif on Ant's support social media and Philly ABC's social media.

https://www.instagram.com/freeantphl/
https://www.instagram.com/philly_abc/

Khalif was given a 5 year federal sentence, and in May 2024 he was given another 1 – 10 year state sentence on top of this for a probation violation. Please write and show him support!

"I was working, I was trying to get my business up and running, I was going to school. I was doing things not just to help my family, I was trying to help communities. The day that I went to the protest... the night before when I was even making my signs. I spent 4 hours just making signs and writing down a bunch of people who were unfairly killed by police officers. This is something I really feel passionate about.

People say all the time, you can do anything you want in America. You can be whatever you want to be. Growing up, I heard it but I never really believed it because I felt like my resources were limited. The world has so many possibilities. I would like to teach that. That's one of the things I would like to be able to pass along to the younger generations when I come home."

Khalif Miller 70042-066
USP Big Sandy
US Penitentiary
PO Box 2068
Inez, KY 41224

Projected release date: 02/17/2025

José Felan

"Greetings to all who are still supporting me in solidarity. Please continue to send your letters of support as they have made a tremendous difference to me. Every letter you send uplifts my spirit and reminds me that I am not alone." José would love letters of support.

José Felan 54146-380
FCI Terre Haute
Federal Correctional Institution
PO Box 33
Terre Haute, IN 47808

Projected release date: 08/30/2026

Matthew White

From the Minnesota Uprising Arrestee Support site: "My name is Matthew White, I am 32 years old and a father of 4 boys. I am an enrolled member of a MN Chippewa tribe and was born and raised in the St. Paul Midway. I am not an out of town white man who come to destroy ethnic neighborhoods as the media has portrayed me to be. Upon my federal arrest for arson in the wake of the George Floyd protests I was a union carpenter. Previous to that I was a resident manager at the Salvation Army Treatment Center, a position I obtained after completing the program myself, this is where I met George Floyd while doing community outreach. During my time at the Salvation Army I got interested and involved in advocating for others. In my free time I dabbled in art and am a graffiti artist.

I headed out that day with the intention of adding my voice to hundreds of others to call for change and spread a little loving artwork for George and now I am facing up to 20 years in federal prison and because of my past record I will realistically be sentenced to 10 years. My oldest children most likely will be adults or pretty near by the time I am released.

Any support and correspondence is much loved and appreciated."

Matthew White 21434-041
FCI Terre Haute
Federal Correctional Institution
PO Box 33
Terre Haute, IN 47808

Projected release date 10/23/2025

John Wade

"John Wade is a George Floyd defendant who has completed his sentencing and has been working hard to reintegrate into our society. He's been punctual and present to all of his parole check-ins. He's been working two jobs, has found temporary housing, and has a community of support around him. Despite all this, at his last parole check-in he was swarmed by armed officers and taken back into custody. While we are positive this is due to some clerical error in the court system, it's unclear what exactly the error is. He is being threatened with more time in prison, has been denied water and meds, abused by guards, and we are struggling together to figure out how to get him back out here with us. We've obtained a lawyer to help with deciphering the paperwork, and we're hopeful he'll be out soon." You can learn more about how to support John at this GoFundMe and from Atlanta IWOC (instagram @atlantaiwoc)

https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-john-post-release

John B. Wade is a Black Atlanta activist who faced charges related to the George Floyd Rebellion in the Summer of 2020. He was arrested on November 2nd, 2020 in an inter-agency raid along with two others, Vida Jones and Ellie Brett. They faced charges related to a string of arsons against government property and police cruisers. Wade had been repeatedly harassed by law enforcement since the beginning of the mass rebellion. He was charged for his alleged participation in the vandalism and burning of the former Wendy's restaurant on University Avenue following the murder of Rayshard Brooks. Brooks was killed by Atlanta Police Officer Garrett Rolfe, who was indicted for murder following the burning of the Wendy's — outside of which Rayshard was murdered — and clashes between police and protesters. Without the determined acts of large crowds following the killing of Brooks, it is unlikely that Rolfe would have been indicted on charges at all. John Wade was sentenced on 2/28/22 to a mandatory minimum of 5 years (to include time served) after conviction on his federal charges.

John Wade 1003510744
Rogers State Prison
1978 Georgia Highway 147
Reidsville, GA 30453

Matthew Rupert

From Minnesota Uprising Arrestee Support: "Matthew Rupert grew up in Galesburg, Illinois with his loving parents Linda and Michael, his oldest sister Kristy, Middle sister Kari, youngest sister Karen, and brother Christopher. His father became sick when Matthew was young. He passed away December 6, 2012 leaving Linda a widow. Matthew's mother was a CNA and is now on disability due to medical conditions. Matthew has been financially and physically supporting his mother. Matthew and his partner have been engaged for 2 years and planned to get married very soon, they have been together for 3 years. Matthew is a great father figure to his partner's 2 children. Matthew has several African-American friends. Tyler Smith was murdered in his hometown by police and no one was arrested, Matthew went to protest over Police killings, not to "riot" and loot! Matthew is facing 9-11 years in prison, which is well above the statutory presumption."

Matthew Rupert 55013-424
USP Big Sandy
US Penitentiary
P.O. Box 2068
Inez, KY 41224

Projected release date 06/29/2028

Margaret Channon

Margaret was sentenced to 5 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to setting 5 cop cars on fire during the large protests in Downtown Seattle on May 29th, 2020.

Margaret Channon 49955-086
FCI Tallahassee
Federal Correctional Institution
PO Box 5000
Tallahassee, FL 32314

Projected release date: 06/05/2026

Malik Muhammad

"My name is Malik Farrad Muhammad. I'm a 26-year-old black/Palestinian pansexual Muslim (yes, hella confusing). I'm an anarchist antifascist, anti-racist abolitionist (yes, both cops and prisons) for my love of freedom! My first protest was in high school: a walkout staged after Treyvon Martin's murder. From there, I never really got active again until "Bernie or Bust" and then, of course, the George Floyd uprising. I traveled the country and organized and fought and was ultimately kidnapped, ransomed, and now held prisoner here at OSP. I have a beautiful son, a beautiful wife and life partner, Jesse, who moved out here to Portland after my kidnapping by the feds, and a loving family back home in the Midwest. I'm also a veteran, I was a tanker in the army — and no, I'm not proud that I was part of the murder machine, so don't thank me for my service. I love music more than anything almost, am a guitarist and aspiring pianist, all genres.

Not much else to say except that I'm a lover of freedom, equity and equality, and will fight to my last breath for it. Unlike those who may regret a thing they did to get convicted or those who tempered their actions for fear of the consequences, I regret nothing, if only not doing more before I was caught. I will live for the people and I'll die for the people because I love the people, we who want freedom cannot rest till it comes."

You can learn more and read Malik's writing at his blog, Malik Speaks!.

https://malikspeaks.noblogs.org/

Malik would love to receive letters and correspondence from people — anything to keep his spirits up and give him hope!

Malik Muhammad #23935744
Snake River Correctional Institution
777 Stanton Blvd
Ontario, OR 97914-8335